

I am an independant film maker and I strongly oppose NPRM 02-230, "The Broadcast Flag." I use Open Source software to view TV, and to exercise my Fair Use rights to incorporate pieces of what I see on TV into my work for purposes of commentary, parody, and analysis. I do not want these freedoms to be threatened.

The "broadcast flag," as I understand it, would force digital TV receiving and editing software to contain software code that blocks it's ability to be used in ways that are not "authoized" by big media companies (though they may be allowed by copyright law or First Amendment protections). But the nature of Open Source software allows any computer user to remove that code. The "broadcast flag" would prohibit me from modifying (or distributing or selling) Open Source software to be used to excersize my Free Speech.

I take this matter very seriously, and strongly urge to FCC to reject NPRM 02-230.